



USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh) Year Three, Quarter 3 - Summary of Progress



Smithsonian
Institution



USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh)

USAID Cooperative Agreement No. AID-388-A-14-00001

Dated 29 October 2015

Bagh Year Three Quarter 3 Summary of Progress

Prepared by USAID's Bagh Activity and submitted to USAID Bangladesh

Submission Date: 1 November 2016

Project office Contact Name:	Awardee Contact Name:
Gary F. Collins, Chief of Party, USAID's Bagh Activity Road 38, House 42, Gulshan-2, Dhaka +880-2-9896370 (tel.) collins.wildteam@gmail.com	Prof. Md. Anwarul Islam Home Office Manager and CEO, WildTeam Cosmos Centre, 69/1 New Circular Road, Malibagh, Dhaka +88-2-9355576 (tel.) anwar1955@gmail.com

DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
ACRONYMS	4
INTRODUCTION	5
QUARTER 3 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS	5
Project Management Activity	5
Technical Implementation Activity	5
Performance Monitoring and Evaluation	9
Institutional Capacity and Development Team (Team ICT)	9
Progress Based on Performance Indicators	10

Acronyms

ACME	Accelerating Commitment for Monitoring and Evaluation
AWP	Annual Work Plan
Bagh	USAID's Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (USAID's Bagh Activity)
BBG	Bangladesh Border Guard
BCAS	Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies
BGB	Border Guard Bangladesh
CCF	Chief Conservator of Forests
COP	Chief of Party
CREL	Climate Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods
DFO	Divisional Forest Officer
ETRT	Emergency Tiger Response Team
EU	European Union
FD	Forest Department
FTRT	Forest Tiger Response Team
GoB	Government of Bangladesh
GPS	Global Positioning System
HTC	Human-Tiger Conflict
ICT	Institutional Capacity Development and Training
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MoEF	Ministry of Environment & Forests
M&E	Monitoring & Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PEC	Project Evaluation Committee
QPR	Quarterly Progress Report
SAC	Special Award Condition
SCBI	Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute
SEALS	Sundarbans Environmental and Livelihoods Security
SERC	Smithsonian Environment Research Center
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Research Tool
SOW	Scope of work
SRCWP	South Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TPP	Technical Project Proforma
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VRT	Village Tiger Response Team
WCCU	Wildlife Crime Control Unit
WCS	World Conservation Society
WTS	Wildlife Technical Specialist
ZPO	Zoological Park Organization

Introduction

USAID's Bagh Activity contributes to the protection of the Royal Bengal tigers and the conservation of the Sundarbans, with the overall goal of preserving the biodiversity of Bangladesh. Bagh is a four-year Project implemented by WildTeam in partnership with the FD of the MoEF, USAID, the Smithsonian Institution and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies. This is the third year's Third Quarter report of Project implementation. The report highlights key accomplishments during the implementation period of 1 July-30 September 2016.

Year Three, Quarter 3- Summary of Progress

Project Management Activity

The Bagh Activity's Quarter 3 started with the unfortunate terrorist attack that took place on July 1 at Holey Bakery in Dhaka. The team realized there were no formal measures or assessments conducted to ensure the safety and security of all staff and the expatriates on the program. As this has now become a requirement under Smithsonian Institution for all projects overseas, with consent from WildTeam, they hired a consultant to do a security assessment, which included all expatriate residences, offices, and hotels that the project uses for accommodation and conference purposes. The assessment provided feedback on certain provisions to put in place, ensured the quality of the apartment and hotel locations as well. This also provided confirmation to our counterparts, such as Panthera, that they may travel to Bangladesh, thus avoiding potential delays in programming in the future.

The project's new AOR from USAID joined during this time, so there was a brief period of transition. USAID's representatives have since been engaged in project activities and meetings with forest department counterparts and other stakeholders.

There is still uncertainty on long-term visas for all three expatriates as all three (who are under different types of visas) expires soon. This has been a constant struggle and issue, expending time and resources to try and resolve this issue.

Technical Implementation Activity

Component 1 (Expanded knowledge base): The Research Team is under Component 1. It carried out its planned activities this quarter. The activities initiated and/or accomplished in this quarter are:

- Four reports (Relative Abundance of Tigers, Occupancy of Tigers, Relative Abundance of Tigers Prey, and Change Detection in Land cover in Katka-Kachikhali) were prepared in Q3 based on the data collected during fieldwork from December to February.
- Vegetation sampling data analysis is underway with the help of Smithsonian Environmental Research Institute (SERC).

- Bagh obtained the permit to export biological samples of DNA to Smithsonian Institution (SI) for further analysis. SI is preparing import documents for these samples as per the USDA, CITES, and USFWS guidelines.
- A Service Contract was signed in September with Chittagong Veterinary and Science University for collaboration in disease monitoring and epidemiology research. The lab analysis for assessing Gut Endoparasites Prevalence of the Sundarbans mammals was underway in Q3.
- Three Research staff attended the 'Boot camp for Wildlife Study Design and Data Analysis' organized by Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) in Bhutan in September. At the boot camp, the team discussed simulation and modeling for camera trapping data analysis that will be used in Bagh's upcoming Camera Trap survey in the Sundarbans.

Component 2 (Reduced illegal wildlife trafficking): Component 2 focused on strengthening the capacity of the GoB and civil society to respond to wildlife trafficking and engage regional and international bodies in the global efforts to prevent wildlife crimes. Activities in Q3 at a glance:

- Two Bagh staff were involved in the CPG working committee and helped the FD prepare a Community Patrol Group (CPG) Operational Guidelines, which is currently under review by FD.
- Three SMART Patrols (72 days of Patrolling) were conducted in Q3, covering a total of 5,107 km in 696 hours. During the patrols, the team apprehended 18 offenders and seized 30 boats. Representatives from Component 2 attended around five meetings organized by FD to prepare a common data management procedure for expanded patrol areas in the Sundarbans. Two patrol reports were prepared and shared with relevant stakeholders. In addition to regular patrolling, the team provided on-the-job training to FD patrol staff in Q3.
- A workshop on forensic DNA testing was held in Khulna on 25 August to discuss the possibility of using modern DNA testing options to strengthen wildlife crime prosecutions in Bangladesh, particularly focusing on the illegal meat trade. The workshop was facilitated by Panthera with support from Bagh and ICITAP.
- A total of 18 wildlife crime incidents were recorded in Q3. These include seizure of one skin and 15 bones of tiger, and two skins and 160 kg meat of deer. Details of 18 offenders' prosecution in six different cases were collected. A prosecution report format was finalized in Q3.
- The TigerHotline received 67 calls in Q3. 15 information were validated and shared with the FD to take appropriate actions.
- A Bagh delegation made a 14-day visit to Assam, India in August to facilitate training on SMART patrolling and database management for the forest staff of the Manas National Park. They also exchanged ideas with the Manas counterparts and explored scopes for collaboration.

Component 3 (Minimized human-wildlife conflicts): BaghActivity aims to prevent human-wildlife conflict, reduce fatalities, and to provide victim relief through Component 3. The following activities were completed and/or initiated under this Component in Q3 of Year 3:

- Six VTRT Annual Coordination Meetings were held to enhance coordination among VTRTs, local administration, Co-management committees and law enforcement agencies and the FD. Besides, 147 VTRT team meetings, 83 VTRT social meetings, and 18 VTRT leaders meetings were held in all four ranges of the Sundarbans in Q3.
- Women were included in the community-led Village Tiger Response Teams (VTRTs) for the first time in September. 14 women volunteers were included in five VTRTs in Koira Upazila under a pilot scheme. Building on the lessons learned from the pilot initiative, Bagh will start including women in all 49 VTRTs from January 2017.
- VTRTs and Bagh field staff responded to 34 wildlife-human conflict situations in which they rescued 22 wild animals (4 deer, 1 crocodile, 2 monkeys, 10 pythons and other snakes, 3 wild boars, 1 bird and 1 otter) and effectively managed 12 Tiger-Human Conflict incidents.
- In Q3, the Forest Tiger Response Team (FTRT) organized 30 training sessions on different first aid topics for forest resources collectors in Satkhira range. The training by FTRT was a part of Bagh-supported Community Based Training and Patrolling Program. The FTRT also conducted 43.75 hours of boat patrolling in Satkhira range.
- Data collection and analysis of Human-Tiger Conflict data was completed and a six monthly Human-Tiger Conflict (HTC) Report was produced.

Component 4 (Enhanced communications, outreach, and gender engagement):

Component 4 has been addressing human threats to tigers, wildlife, and the environment by focusing on behavioral change through communications, outreach, and gender engagement both at local and national level. The highlights of the activities carried out in Q3 2016 under this component are as below:

- The BaghBondhus (tiger ambassadors) conducted 186 village forums in 22 wards in the Sundarbans periphery. The number of male and female participants were 2,381 and 2,089 respectively. Quarterly meetings and capacity development training were held in all four ranges to review BaghBondhus' performance in Q2 and set targets for Q3 and Q4. The training events focused on enhancing the capacity of the tiger ambassadors. 60 BaghBondhus took part in those events.
- Bagh observed the Global Tiger Day on 29 July in collaboration with FD. Bagh's Community Conservation Action Team organized four events in four Sundarbans ranges (Khulna, Satkhira, Sarankhola, Chandpai) jointly with FD, local administration relevant NGOs to observe the day.
- Bagh provided support to FD to organize the month-long National Tree Plantation Fair at Krishibid Institute in Dhaka from 31 July to 31 August. Bagh set up substantial

branding elements at the event to promote its work. The local team provided support and participated in the National Tree Fair 2016 in Khulna as well.

- Bagh organized a 10-day art exhibition (29 July-7 August) featuring tiger-inspired paintings by popular Bangladeshi artist Nazir Hossain at Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the closing event of the art exhibition.
- Primary correspondences were made with Dhaka North and South City Corporations, Education Ministry, Railway Ministry to discuss collaboration for some upcoming activities under Component 4. A meeting was also held with FD in September to discuss the activity calendar.
- Evaluation of bidders' proposals against the RFP for the Boat Chain was completed in September. An RFP was published for National Tiger Awareness Week scheduled in December.
- Bagh COP visited a fourth-grade classroom at American International School Dhaka (AISD) on 26 September to share Bagh's work and stimulate the young learners' motivation for the conservation of tigers and the Sundarbans. A total of 13 issues of TigerTuesday, a weekly bulletin of USAID's Bagh Activity, were published in Q3.
- Nine Partnership Facilitators were nominated from different components to lead the partnership process through the Salesforce CRM system. A Partnership Strategy Orientation and Salesforce CRM training was organized by the Partnership Unit on 23-24 August for 17 selected participants from Bagh.
- Eight concept notes were shared with IDLC, SCB, Robi Axiata, Transcom Beverage, Prothom Alo, National Geographic, and Banglalink for potential partnerships with the private sector.
- A delegation from Bagh and WildTeam attended the World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawaii in September and explored potential partnership scopes with National Geographic, WWF TAI, Google, and Wildlife Protection Solution.
- An RFP was published to select a firm to organize the Greater Dialogue for a Greater Cause in the first week of December. Four Guest Speakers selected for the event were communicated by the COP.
- Led by its Gender Specialist and with support from Community Conservation Action Team (CAT), women's inclusion in VTRTs was made possible by Bagh in Q3. As of September, 14 women volunteers were included in five VTRTs under a pilot scheme. 43 out of 49 VTRTs have already agreed to welcome women members in their teams. Bagh will continue to work to include women in all VTRTs.
- Three orientation sessions were held on Gender Equity policy and Sexual Harassment Policy in Khulna regional office and two range offices in September. The Gender Specialist also visited a women beneficiary group in Munshiganj, Satkhira and made recommendations to remove some issues facing the Bagh beneficiaries.

Component 5 (Improved livelihoods for conservation):

Component 5 made the following progress in Q3 as part of its efforts to promote environmentally sustainable livelihood in the Sundarbans periphery:

- Bagh beneficiaries produced 3,163 units of products for Pebble since July. The second phase of handicrafts training began in Gabura, Satkhira in September for 100 beneficiaries. A Bagh branded tag was developed for the Pebble products produced by Bagh beneficiaries. The team was gearing up to train another 200 beneficiaries starting from November.
- The team uploaded the trainee info (participants who completed the two-month long training with more than 90% attendance) into Bagh's online database. The training person-hours hit 11,500 and 119 out of 210 participants completed the training with an attendance rate of 90% and above. A Pass Book for those beneficiaries was developed in Q3.
- The revised Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) and Initial Environmental Impact (IEE) on honey production were submitted to USAID for review on 1 September. 13 sacks of sugar were provided to the beehive box vendor till date for artificial feeding to the bees.
- The final report on Tourism Assessment and SRF Strategy was submitted by the STTA. A meeting was held with the PD to get FD's approval for Bagh beneficiaries to operate interpretive tour guide service and souvenir sales kiosks at Karamjal Center in Sundarbans SRF.
- Data collection completed by BCAS for a baseline survey on 210 beneficiaries. BCAS will share the findings once the data analysis is completed.

Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

The activities initiated and/or accomplished in Quarter 3 include:

- Bagh M&E Team assisted the USAID-ACME Data Quality Assessment (DQA) from 13 to 22 July. The DQA report was received on 30 August from USAID and was shared with Bagh staff. The first follow-up report of Knowledge-Attitude survey, conducted in June, was received in September and shared internally.
- The M&E Team made two field visits to the regional and range offices from 21 to 24 August and from 25 to 29 September to facilitate on-the-job training, data collection and preparation for mid-term evaluation.
- The revised Bagh M&E Plan was approved by the USAID on August 31 with some minor suggestions to be incorporated. The M&E team has already sent a refined version of the Plan to USAID.
- A concept note was prepared by the M&E Team in Q3 for an initiative to capture the Project's success and document the best practices.
- ACME arranged a training session for all DO2 and DO4 IPs on 22 September to enhance their capacity on INSIGHT reporting software.

Institutional Capacity and Development Team (Team ICT)

In Q3 of Y3, the Team ICT's key activities and achievements include.

- In Q3, the person-hours in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation training stood at 1,111.50 against the target of 7,320 person hours. The target was not achieved as the training hours achieved in Q2 included the outcomes from some training events that were originally planned for Q3. Those training events were held earlier to avoid the risks of postponement /cancellation during monsoon. Besides, since the start of the two-month long crafts training for women beneficiaries was delayed, person-hours from this ongoing training could not be added to Q3 reporting.
- Of the person hours achieved in Q3, 100% came from community beneficiaries. 71.7% person hours came from men participants while 28.3% from women participants. Almost 70% of the person-hours came from forest resource collectors' group. The Team ICT continued its routine tasks including checking, verifying, and inputting training data into TraiNet and BaghTracks and organizing the hard copies of training data.

Performance Progress (July-Sept) based on performance indicators

- No achievement was observed in regards to the number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, or regulations officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance (standard indicator F4.8.2-28).
- Training person hours totaled 1,111.5 (standard indicator F4.8.1-29). This is around 15% of the target of 7,320. Female participants contributed 28.3% of the training hours.
- Bagh's livelihoods interventions delivered increased economic benefits to 385 people in Q3 (standard indicator F4.8.1-6). This is around 64.20% of the target of 600. 51.4% of the beneficiaries were women.
- 520 individual activities (custom indicator 5) were carried out by VTRT and BaghBandhu. This is 130% of the quarterly target of 400.
- Five priority research activities (one threat assessment and four wildlife and habitat monitoring surveys) were conducted in Q3 (custom indicator 6). Of the research initiatives, two are in analysis phase and three in drafting phase.
- In Q3, no new area was covered by SMART patrolling (custom indicator 7) in the Sundarbans West Sanctuary. A total of 69,137 hectares were covered by repeated patrolling through four SMART patrols.
- No achievement is observed in regards to the number of joint community patrolling groups functioning (custom indicator 8).
- Four SMART patrols (custom indicator 9) were conducted inside West Sanctuary of the Sundarbans during this reporting period. The achievement is 133% of the Q3 target of 3.

- 34 human-wildlife conflict incidents (12 tiger incidents) were reported in Q3 and 100% of the incidents were managed effectively (custom indicator 11). The achievement is 30% higher than the quarterly target.
- A total of 81 people from the target group adopted eco-friendly AIG schemes (custom indicator 13). The achievement is 54% of the quarterly target of 150. All the beneficiaries of this activity are women.
- \$9,315 was invested in eco-friendly AIG schemes through PPPs under Bagh (custom indicator 14). This is around 46.6% of the quarterly target of \$20,000.

For details on performance progress, please see Annex I and Annex II.

Annexes:

Annex I: USAID'S Bagh Activity Performance Progress (July-Sept 2016) by disaggregation

Annex II: USAID's Bagh Activity Targets & Results (July-Sept 2016)

Annex III: TigerTuesday published in Q3 2016



USAID'S Bagh Activity Performance Progress (July-Sept 2016) by disaggregation

Standard Indicators

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
F4.8.2-28	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance	Number	1	0
	Category			
	Laws			
	Policies			
	Acts			
	Conventions			
	Strategies			
	Plans			
	Regulations			
	Agreement			
	Protocols			
	Guidelines			
	Stages			
	Analyzed			
	Drafted			
	Proposed			
	Accepted			
	Implemented			
F4.8.1-29	Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	Number	7320	1111.5
	Gender			
	Men			797
	Women			314.5
	Third Sex			
	Group			
	Forest Department			
	CMOs			
	VRTTs			12
	Forest Resource Collectors			778
	BaghBandhu			321.5
	Students			
	Teachers			
	Researchers			
	Others (GO/ NGO etc)			
F4.8.1-6	Number of people with increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance	Number	600	385
	Gender			
	Men			187
	Women			198

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
	Third Sex			0

Custom Indicators

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
Custom 1	Relative abundance of tigers in target habitat	Tiger track set/km (Khal survey)	0	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			
		Number of tiger/100 square km (Camera trap)	0	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
Custom 2	Relative abundance of tiger prey species in target habitat	Proportion of surveyed segments occupied by tiger prey (Khal survey)	0	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
		Index of tiger prey pictures obtained by Camera-traps at a sampling grid.	0	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Sanctuary			
	Sundarbans East			
	Sundarbans West			
	Sundarbans South			
Custom 3	Percentage of individuals with adequate knowledge in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	0	0
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	Group			
	VRTT			
	BaghBondhu			
	FRC			
	TigerWidow			
	Others (community people)			
Custom 4	Percentage of individuals with positive attitude in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	0	0
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	Group			
	VRTT			
	BaghBondhu			
	FRC			
	TigerWidow			
	Others (community people)			
Custom 5	Number of individual activities conducted by community groups (VRTTs, Baghbondhu) for wildlife conservation	Number	400	520
	Group			
	VRTT			416
	BaghBondhu			104
	Type of activities			
	Social meeting			254
	Wildlife rescue operation			22
	Commitment session			0
	News			1
	Personal consultation			33
	Village forum			186
	Patrolling			20

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
	Other			4
Custom 6	Number of priority research studies conducted for better understanding of Sundarbans ecosystem	Number	5	5
	Category			
	Threat assessment			1
	Wildlife and habitat monitoring			4
	Social Research			
	Stages			
	Planning			
	Data collecting			
	Analyzing			2
	drafting			3
	Final reporting			
Custom 7	Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management	Hectares	18625	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			0
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Stages			
	New			0
	Continue			69,137
Custom 8	Number of joint community patrolling groups functioning	Number	1	0
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
Custom 9	Number of SMART patrols conducted inside forest	Number	3	4
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			4
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
Custom 10	Number of forest resource collectors applying safety measures	Number	75	0
	RC groups			
	Honey collectors			
	Fish and crab collectors			
	Golpata collectors			
	Wood/fire wood collectors			
	Genders			
	Men			
	Women			
	Third Sex			
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			
	Stages			
	New			
	Continue			0
Custom 11	Percentage of human-wildlife conflict incidences effectively managed	Percentage	70%	100%
	Ranges			
	Khulna			100%
	Satkhira			100%
	Chandpai			100%
	Sarankhola			100%
	Type of wildlife conflict			
	Tiger			100%
	Snake			100%
	Wild boar			100%
	Crocodile			100%
	Deer			100%
	Monkey			100%
	Jungle Monitor			
	Otter			100%
	Wildcat			
	Fishing cat			
	Wild fox			
	Bird			100%
Custom 12	Number of people in a target group (e.g. forest resource collectors) who have adopted eco-friendly AIG schemes	Number	150	81
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			61
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			20
	Gender			
	Men			0
	Women			81
	Third Sex			0
	FRC Category			
	Honey collectors			7
	Fish/shrimp fry collectors			1
	Fish/Crab collectors			67
	Wood/goalpata collectors			1
	Others			5
Custom 13	Amount of investment in eco-friendly AIG schemes through PPPs under Bagh	USD	20000	9,315
	Ranges			
	Satkhira			7,015
	Sharankhola			
	Khulna			
	Chandpai			2,300

Ref.	Indicator & Disaggregation	Unit	Q3' 2016 Target	Q3' 2016 Result
	Gender			
	Men			
	Women			9,315
	Third Sex			
	AIG Category			
	Pebble Handicrafts			9,315

USAID's Bagh Activity Targets & Results (July-Sept 2016)

SPS reference (f)/custom #	Title	Unit	Baseline	2016 Target (Jul-Sep'16)	2016 Result (Jul-Sep'16)	LoP Target	Cumulative Result (Jan'15-Sep'16)
Custom 1	Relative abundance of tigers in target habitat	Tiger track set/km (Khal survey)	0.36*	0	0	0.36	0
		Number of tiger/100 square km (Camera trap)	2.17**	0	0	2.17	0
Custom 2	Relative abundance of tiger prey species in target habitat	Proportion of surveyed segments occupied by tiger prey (Khal survey)	80%*	0	0	80%	0
		Index of tiger prey pictures obtained by Camera-traps at a sampling grid.	NA	0	0	-	0
Standards & F4.8.2-28	Number of laws, policies, strategies, plans, or regulations addressing climate change (mitigation or adaptation) and/or biodiversity conservation officially proposed, adopted, or implemented as a result of USG assistance	Number	0	1	0	6	2
Custom 3	Percentage of individuals with adequate knowledge in community groups on wildlife conservation	Percentage	31.6%	0	0	61.6%	51.7%
Custom 4	Percentage of individuals with	Percentage	28.3%	0	0	58.3%	50.2%

SPS reference (f)/custom #	Title	Unit	Baseline	2016 Target (Jul-Sep'16)	2016 Result (Jul-Sep'16)	LoP Target	Cumulative Result (Jan'15-Sep'16)
	positive attitude in community groups on wildlife conservation						
Custom 5	Number of individual activities conducted by community groups (VTRTs, Baghbondhu) for wildlife conservation	Number	1,300	400	520	4,200	2,294
Standards & F4.8.1-29	Number of person hours of training in natural resources management and/or biodiversity conservation supported by USG assistance	Number	0	7,320	1,111.5	55,560	33,093
Custom 6	Number of priority research studies conducted for better understanding of Sundarbans ecosystem	Number	0	0	5	10	6
Custom 7	Number of hectares of biological significance and/or natural resources under improved natural resource management	Hectres	0	18,625	0	71,500	69,137
Custom 8	Number of joint community patrolling groups functioning	Number	0	1	0	6	0
Custom 9	Number of SMART patrols conducted inside forest	Number	0	3	4	30	18
Custom 10	Number of forest resource collectors applying safety measures	Number	0	75	0	1,000	614
Custom 11	Percentage of human-wildlife conflict incidences effectively managed	Percentage	60%	70%	100%	80%	84.31 %
Standards &	Number of people with	Number	0	600	385	2,400	385

SPS reference (f)/custom #	Title	Unit	Baseline	2016 Target (Jul-Sep'16)	2016 Result (Jul-Sep'16)	LoP Target	Cumulative Result (Jan'15-Sep'16)
F4.8.1-6	increased economic benefits derived from sustainable natural resource management and conservation as a result of USG assistance						
Custom 12	Number of people in a target group (e.g. forest resource collectors) who have adopted eco-friendly AIG schemes	Number	0	150	81	600	81
Custom 13	Amount of investment in eco-friendly AIG schemes through PPPs under Bagh	USD	0	20,000	9,315	70,000	9,315

Note:

* Result of Khal survey during 2015-2016 by USAID's Bagh Activity

** Result from "Tiger Status Report of Bangladesh Sundarban" Published by Department of Forestry, Ministry of Forestry and Environment, Bangladesh October 2015.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 68 | 05 July 2016

Bagh engaging newly elected local govt representatives to support tiger conservation

USAID's Bagh Activity held an introductory meeting on 19 May 2016 with the local administration of Patharghata upazila in Barguna to sensitize the newly elected Union Parishad representatives to wildlife conservation and to brief the newly elected officials to Bagh. Similar meetings will be held with newly elected Union Parishad representatives in other upazilas adjacent to Sundarbans in the next few months.

The objective of the sensitization session was to highlight Bagh's work to the new local government representatives and secure their support for further strengthening the community-led conservation activities in Sharankhola range of Sundarbans. The meeting started with a brief overview of USAID's Bagh Activity followed by a discussion on the role of local administration in tiger conservation.

The meeting was facilitated by BaghBondhu (tiger ambassador) Imam Hossain who has been volunteering in the community-led conservation activities initiated by Bagh since 2014. Bagh staff gave a short briefing on the work being done by Bagh and its plan for 2016. They also highlighted the importance of tiger conservation and the role of local administration in safeguarding the apex predator and its habitat. Bagh also sought support from the local government representatives to introduce Sundarbans Clubs and Tiger Scouts for children to support the community conservation efforts. Patharghata upazila Vice-Chairman laid emphasis on formation of Sundarbans Club for disseminating conservation messages and praised the initiative for introducing Tiger Scout groups to engage children in the efforts for conserving tigers. The newly elected UP representatives also vowed to extend their support to community conservation activities under USAID's Bagh Activity. They suggested reinforcing the community awareness programs at local level to combat wildlife crime.

Upcoming activities:

USAID's Bagh Activity will organize events in Dhaka and Khulna to observe the Global Tiger Day on July 29, 2016. Bagh will also extend its support to Bangladesh's Forest Department to arrange various programs marking the day.



A snapshot of the introductory meeting with Patharghata local administration



Patharghata upazila Vice-Chairman speaking in the meeting

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 69 | 12 July 2016

Bagh to support community-based training by FTTR throughout the year

The Forest Tiger Response Team (FTTR) organized 16 training sessions for the forest resources collectors in Satkhira range in May and June 2016 as part of USAID's Bagh Activity's initiative to introduce a Community-Based Training Program (CBTP) in the area. A total of 135 forest resource collectors participated in the training sessions that helped them develop a greater understanding of forest working safety, the *Wildlife Act* and the *Compensation Policy* for tiger victims and their families.

Forest Department officials, local government representatives, BaghBondhu and VTRT members attended the training sessions as guests. The FTTR is a boat-based team working since 2008 in Satkhira range, an area historically prone to human-tiger conflicts. FTTR activities have been facing a slowdown over the last three years for lack of logistics support. Bagh extended its support to FTTR to rejuvenate its activities. With necessary support from Bagh, the FTTR also conducted 26 hours of boat patrolling along the Koikhali – Gabura coast to monitor human-wildlife conflict situation and respond to any emergency incident. The FTTR will continue organizing training and boat patrolling throughout the year. As human-tiger conflicts marked a sharp decline in Satkhira range in the past few years, the Community-Based Training Program (CBTP) was introduced earlier this year with the help of FTTR members. The FTTR members select a new conservation issue every month, and develop training module accordingly to conduct the training.

FTTR members respond promptly to human-tiger conflicts inside and outside of the forest and provide immediate first aid support, transport the injured persons to health facilities, retrieve the bodies of tiger victims from the forest and patrol the areas where villagers and resource collectors are more likely to encounter tigers. They also have been creating awareness among the communities about conserving the tiger and the Sundarbans. In many cases, the dedicated team also assisted the families of the

deceased to follow the formalities properly to get compensation from the government.

Upcoming activities: USAID's Bagh Activity has partnered with Hathay Bunano Proshikhan Society (HBPS) to train selected women beneficiaries on handicrafts making. On completion of the two-month training in Satkhira range, around 200 women are expected to receive work orders to make high-quality handicrafts for renowned global brand Pebble. Bagh sees this as a significant achievement in its livelihoods approach for promoting sustainable alternative income-generating activities for communities living near the Sundarbans.



A snapshot of a training session organized by the FTTR in Satkhira



A FTTR-led training on a boat in Satkhira range of Sundarbans

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

**USAID's Bagh Activity****#iStandForTigers****Issue 70 | 19 July 2016**

SMART patrol team, Bangladesh Coast Guard conduct joint drive to demolish pirate camp in Sundarbans

Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) and a SMART patrol team under USAID's Bagh Activity knocked down a well-built pirate camp at Pushpakathi area in Sundarbans West Sanctuary during a joint drive on 30 June 2016.

The large camp, located near Matiarkhal in Sundarbans west, had a machang, a mobile antenna hanging tower, a temporary dock for repairing trawlers and a fish drying shed. The illicit establishment was a permanent camp occasionally used by the pirates for repairing trawlers and boats. A 15-member team comprising ten BCG personnel and five SMART patrolmen conducted the 1.5-hour drive and demolished the establishment completely. BCG Commander Lt Selim led the operation.

A SMART patrol team earlier detected the pirate camp during its regular patrolling from 29 May to 11 June 2016. The team reconnoitered the illegal camp, took photos and videos of the camp and reported to senior officials of Bangladesh Forest Department. Acting on the tip-off, Mr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Conservator of Forests (CF) of Khulna Circle and Project Director of USAID's Bagh Activity, ordered a large-scale operation to demolish the pirate camp. Bangladesh Coast Guard extended their support for the operation and detailed plans were made for the operation by the FD and Coast Guard.

Bagh and its cost-share partner Panthera jointly launched the country's first-ever SMART patrolling initiative in 2015 to strengthen the patrol monitoring system across the world's largest mangrove forest.

Upcoming activities:

USAID's Bagh Activity will extend its support to Bangladesh Forest Department (FD) to organize a month-long National Tree Plantation Fair starting from 31 July 2016 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka. The event will be an excellent opportunity for FD and Bagh to underline the importance of conserving tigers and the Sundarbans to the target audience from all strata of the society.



An advance team securing the site just before the joint operation



The team after successfully demolishing the pirate camp

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 71 | 26 July 2016

Bagh attends workshop on conservation education in Assam, India

USAID's Bagh Activity attended a five-day workshop on 25-30 June 2016 in Assam, India to exchange ideas on a wide range of issues including conservation education & communications and community engagement as the means to support conservation efforts in different socio-economic settings.

The workshop as was organized by Aaranyak, a renowned conservation organization working in northeast India, particularly in Assam. Aaranyak is also a member of the Indian National Board for Wildlife headed by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Tanver Hossain, Communication Coordinator of USAID's Bagh Activity, represented Bagh at the event participated by conservation education experts from different organizations in India. Aaranyak recently rolled out a conservation project for the Manas landscape with conservation education as the key component to promote conservation friendly behavior and promote alternative practices that help safeguarding the natural resources in Manas. Keeping the focus on conservation education, the workshop included a brief presentation on the value systems, culture, art and society of the Manas forest communities and how the forests are deeply entwined with their life, a panel discussion on conservation education in the State Education Curriculum and the challenges facing the education system. A discussion with local journalists and a meeting with a self-help group engaged in piggery, weaving and other alternative income- generating activities were also held during the five-day workshop.

Mr. Hossain conducted a session on conservation communications at the workshop based on the experience of National Tiger Awareness Campaign and community behavioral change campaign 'Mother-like Sundarbans' initiated by USAID's Bagh Activity. The workshop also identified the key objectives and designed a comprehensive strategy for the conservation education project for the Manas landscape.



Bagh Communication Coordinator Mr. Tanver Hossain conducting a session



A snapshot of the Manas landscape located in the State of Assam in North-East India

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 72 | 02 August 2016

Bagh organizes art exhibition, local level events to observe Global Tiger Day

A 10 day art exhibition organized by USAID's Bagh Activity began at the Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka on 29 July on the occasion of Global Tiger Day 2016. The purpose of Global Tiger Day is to raise awareness about tiger conservation.

The highlight of the event was the art exhibition with an exciting array of tiger-inspired paintings based on indigenous art forms and traditional folk motifs by artist Nazir Hossain, popularly known as Tiger Nazir. Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky formally inaugurated the art exhibition. Prof. Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam, CEO of WildTeam, the key implementer of USAID's Bagh Activity; Mr. Gary F. Collins, Chief of Party of Bagh Activity were present at the inauguration as special guests. The exhibition will continue until 7 August.

The Bagh Activity organized colorful rallies and discussion events in all four ranges of the Sundarbans periphery to mark the Global Tiger Day 2016. Lawmaker of Bagerhat-4 constituency Alhaj Dr. Mozammel Hossain; Mr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Conservator of Forests, Khulna Circle and Project Director of USAID's Bagh Activity; Divisional Forest Officer of Sundarbans East Division, Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) and Additional Police Super of Sarankhola were present at the discussion held at Sarankhola Upazila Parishad auditorium in Bagerhat. While addressing the function, Dr. Mozammel Hossain laid emphasis on strengthening law enforcement activities against poachers and building a strong social disapproval towards consuming deer meat and all forms of wildlife crime.

Students, local people, VTRTs and CMC members, and representatives of local administration and Forest Department attended the rallies and discussion events simultaneously held at Mongla in Bagerhat, Koyra in Khulna and Shyamnagar in Satkhira to mark the day.

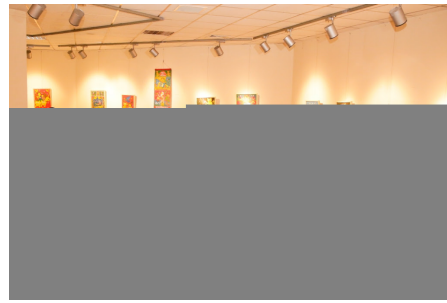
On the occasion of Global Tiger Day, WildTeam has joined 45 international conservation organizations in raising the alarm against the increase in tiger poaching and renewing the call to put an end to all kinds of tiger farming and tiger trade. "Tiger farming and trade of body parts of captive tigers undermine tiger conservation efforts across Asia. Trade of tiger parts and products stimulate demand for tiger products- be it from wild or captive tigers- and undermine enforcement efforts by making it difficult to know whether seized tiger products come from wild or captive tigers," according to the statement.

Director General of Bangladesh

Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky
inaugurating the art exhibition



A snapshot of a rally at Munshiganj in
Satkhira marking the Global Tiger Day



Art lovers visiting the art exhibition to be
continued till 7 August at the Fine Arts
Gallery of Shilpakala Academy

Dr. Mozammel Hossain, MP attended
the event at Sarankhola in Bagerhat

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 73 | 09 August 2016

Bagh's 10-day Tiger Art Exhibition pulls huge crowds

USAID's Bagh Activity successfully organized a 10-day art exhibition on tigers from 29 July to 7 August 2016 at Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka to raise awareness about tiger conservation through paintings inspired by local folklore.

Bagh Activity organized the art exhibition on the occasion of Global Tiger Day 2016 to engage people on the importance of ensuring the safety of tigers and conservation of its natural habitat, the Sundarbans. Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor attended the closing event of the art exhibition as the Chief Guest. The art exhibition showcased a total of 51 acrylic paintings by Artist Nazir Hossain, popularly known as Tiger Nazir. The paintings featured the apex predator in a traditional art form that depicts the nation's rich cultural heritage and respect for the tiger. Teachers, students, artists, art lovers and tiger enthusiasts visited the art exhibition and appreciated the artistic infusion of indigenous metaphors designed to support tiger conservation. While addressing the closing ceremony, the Honorable Minister said, "Regrettably, the tiger population is decreasing for various and difficult reasons. But we are yet to go deep into the actual causes of the decline in tiger numbers. We need to work together for this."

Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Liaquat Ali Lucky inaugurated the art exhibition on 29 July. Prof. Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam, CEO of WildTeam, the key implementer of USAID's Bagh Activity; Mr. Gary F. Collins, Chief of Party of Bagh Activity were present at the inauguration as Special Guests. The tiger population is critically endangered in Bangladesh, and raising widespread awareness has been a major undertaking of the Bagh Activity to strengthen the government's efforts to reverse the decline in tiger numbers.



Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor visiting the Tiger Art Exhibition during the closing event



Artist Nazir Hossain, his family and a Bagh official handing over a painting to the minister as a souvenir

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 74 | 16 August 2016

Experiencing NGO management in the US

A staff member from USAID's Bagh Activity attended an international exchange program in the United States where a multi-regional group of 22 development professionals from 21 countries gathered to learn first-hand about NGO management in the U.S. and apply the learning in their home countries.

The three-week long program began in Washington, D.C. on 11 June 2016 as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) hosted by the US Department of State. Divided into three groups, the participants attended different events and workshops at Denver, Colorado, Phoenix, Arizona and Salt Lake City, Utah. The program concluded on 2 July in Pensacola, Florida. Every year around 5,000 professionals from different background visit the United States and get first-hand knowledge on US society, people and its culture.

The objectives of the IVLP event on 'NGO Management in the U.S.' were to examine innovative NGO, non-profit, public service and advocacy organization management in the US and look at the best practices in NGO management strategies for strengthening leadership, volunteer engagement, fundraising and use of technology & social media. The program included meetings with different NGOs, associations and experiencing their activities, fundraising tools, volunteer and board management. Two sessions were held on leadership and strategic planning. Besides, the participants also volunteered at a homeless shelter and helped an NGO in its typical activities for a day. The NGO professionals also took part in two hospitality events to get a glimpse of the daily life of American families and had outings in cultural and natural places over the weekends.



A group photo of the NGO professionals at the IVLP event



A meeting with United Way, a US-based INGO in Pensacola, Florida

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

**USAID's Bagh Activity****Issue 75 | 23 August 2016**

Project Management Manual review and capacity building training held for PMM champions of Bagh, WildTeam

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in collaboration with WildTeam organized a two-day Project Management Manual (PMM) Review and Skills Enhancement Training for the PMM champions on 17-18 August 2016.

The PMM Champions are selected staff members who are well-trained on the Project Management Manual and guide the use of advanced project management tools. A total of 23 staff members (PMM champions) of USAID's Bagh Activity and WildTeam participated in the training held at Ascott the Residence in Baridhara, Dhaka. The objectives of the training were to reflect on the valuable feedback from the PMM champions on their experience with the PMM, identify the areas of improvement in the project management processes and tools, and review the PMM. The training also gave an opportunity to enhance PMM champions' skills on key aspects of project and team management. Mr. Gary F. Collins, Chief of Party of USAID's Bagh Activity, delivered the welcome speech at the opening session of the two-day training. Ms. Ana B. Sacramento, Organizational Capacity Building Specialist; Ms. Sonia V. Josserand-Mercier, Learning and Communication Specialist of UNOPS; and Dr Gawsia Wahidunnessa Chowdhury, WildTeam Trustee Board Member and Lead Member of the PMM Implementation Committee, facilitated the training sessions on the first day.

The first day of the training focused on the experiences the team gathered from the roll-out of the new PMM, review and updates of the PMM, and the lessons learned so far during the implementation of the project management manual. The updated and approved version of PMM 2016 was shared with the participants at the training. The participants also took part in group exercises to enhance their skills in different project management practices. The second day's sessions focused on different soft skills including team development, effective team communication and presentation skills in a project management context. At the end of the day, the participants adopted an action

plan in regard to project assurance audit and an update of the PM tools. Mr Quazi M. Ahmed facilitated the training on the second day as the resource person. Mr Iqbal Hussain, Program and Partnership Management Specialist of USAID's Bagh Activity, delivered the closing remarks and vote of thanks at the end of the session.



The PMM champions taking part in group exercise to enhance their project management skills



A group of the participants at the Project Management Manual review and capacity building training

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 76 | 30 August 2016

Bagh organizes two-day training on Partnership Strategy and Salesforce CRM

USAID's Bagh Activity organized a two-day 'Partnership Strategy Orientation and Salesforce CRM Training' on 23-24 August 2016 to increase the effectiveness of partnership management within Bagh and WildTeam for securing a robust partnership outcome and long-term sustainability.

A total of 17 selected staff members from Bagh and WildTeam, the key implementer of the Project, attended the orientation and training sessions at Lakeshore Hotel, Gulshan-2, Dhaka. The objectives of the event were to help the participants develop a better understanding of Bagh Partnership Strategy and Guideline, enhance their partner relationship management skills and define the roles and responsibilities of the key staff members within Bagh Partnership Management System to effectively build and maintain relationship with the existing and potential partners. The participants were also trained in the use of Salesforce customer relationship management (CRM) system which will be launched soon to streamline Bagh's partnership approach.

The Bagh Partnership Strategy and Guideline sets out a framework for public private partnership (PPP) collaboration and provides practical guidance for building effective partnerships with different organizations including the private sector. Bagh will introduce the state of the art Salesforce CRM system (www.salesforce.com) to manage and analyze its interactions with the existing and potential partners. Global Nest, a Salesforce authorized consulting firm, was appointed to customize the CRM system for Bagh. Iqbal Hussain, Program & Partnership Management Specialist; Malka Shamrose, Partnership and Livelihoods Consultant of Bagh, and Anirban Shaha from Global Nest facilitated different sessions at the 'Partnership Strategy Orientation and Salesforce CRM Training'.



The participants taking part in an interactive discussion



A group photo of the Bagh and WildTeam staff at the training

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 77 | 06 September 2016

Workshop held on forensic DNA testing for wildlife crime prosecution

A daylong workshop on forensic DNA testing was held in Khulna on 25 August 2016 to discuss the possibility of using modern DNA testing options to strengthen wildlife crime prosecutions in Bangladesh, particularly focusing on the illegal meat trade.

DNA analysis can be used to collect a wide range of evidences from samples such as blood or body parts of wild animals and potential sources of human DNA to assess the types of crimes and identify the criminals. The Bangladesh Forest Department and the USAID Bagh Activity requested experts from the Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) and Panthera to facilitate the workshop at City Inn, Khulna. Representatives from Bangladesh Police, Forest Department, prosecutors and forensics experts from the CID lab attended the workshop.

At the workshop, Panthera's Craig Fullstone and Dr. Robert Pickles showcased how the GENIE II DNA testing kit can be used for law enforcement. ICITAP's Ms. Tanik Munir and Mr. Stephen Lettic provided insight into how this can work in the context of Bangladesh. The participants stressed the need for a new DNA testing tool in Bangladesh as the existing evidence collection scopes are seemingly not adequate to facilitate effective wildlife crime prosecutions. Mr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed, Conservator of Forests, Khulna Circle and Project Director of USAID's Bagh Activity; Mr. Md Modinul Ahsan, Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management & Nature Conservation Division in Khulna; Mr. Ekramul Habib, Additional DIG of Khulna Range; Mr. Renerio Acosta, Bagh AOR and Senior Environment and Climate Change Advisor of USAID Bangladesh; Mr. Gary F. Collins, Chief of Party of USAID's Bagh Activity; and Ms. Kathy Wachala, Deputy Chief of Party of USAID's Bagh Activity attended the workshop among others. Bagh Project Director Mr. Zahir Uddin Ahmed facilitated the daylong session.

Bagh AOR Mr. Renerio Acosta
addressing the workshop in Khulna
on 25 August 2016

Additional DIG of Khulna Range Mr.
Ekramul Habib speaking at the
workshop

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 78 | 13 September 2016

VRTTs help rescue crocodile, python in Sundarbans

The Forest Department (FD) and Bagh Activity's Village Tiger Response Team (VRTT) members successfully rescued and relocated a juvenile crocodile and a python from the periphery of the Sundarbans back into the forest.

The python was rescued on 8 August 2016 after it had strayed out of the forest near Khawlia union of Morrelganj Upazila in Bagerhat. It was set free in Gulishakhali forest camp in presence of Forest Department officials. The crocodile, trapped in the mud, was rescued from the bank of Baleshwari River in Mathbaria upazila in Pirojpur on 20 August 2016. The crocodile was later released to the Dudhmukhi River.

Some fishermen informed the VTRT members when they noticed the crocodile stuck in the mud. The VTRT members and Bagh's Field Assistant, Alom Hosen went to the spot promptly to rescue the crocodile as instructed by Bagh's Community Conservation Action Coordination Mr. Mahbubul Alam and Programme Officer Mr. Bibhas Talukder. Bagh team members informed the Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) of the incident and the Bagh field staff and VTRT members, along with the Station Officer of Sarankhola Forest Range and Wildlife Conservation Officer Mehdi Hassan Khan, released the 4 feet 9 inches long crocodile to the Dudhmukhi River.

Meanwhile, a group of madrasa students rescued the python with the help of their teachers when a local man tried to kill the snake. The students informed the Forest Station Officer of the incident. As instructed by the Station Officer, Bagh's Field Assistant Abu Naim rushed to the spot with local VTRT members. They later released the python at Gulishakhali Forest Camp.



The eight-foot-long python is being released in the forest



The crocodile was set free to the Dudhmukhi River in the Sundarbans

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.



USAID's Bagh Activity



Issue 79 | 20 September 2016

Bagh provides SMART patrol training, explores collaboration with Manas National Park in Assam, India

A delegation from USAID's Bagh Activity made a 14-day visit to Assam, India in August to facilitate training on SMART patrolling and database management for the forest staff of the Manas National Park. They also shared relevant experiences and explored scopes for collaboration in tiger conservation and wildlife crime prevention.

The delegation included Ms. Katherine J. Wachala, Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP); and four staff members of the Anti-Trafficking Action (ATA) work stream of USAID's Bagh Activity. The visiting ATA team comprised of Patrolling Specialist Capt (retd) Khandaker Rajib Hossain, Briefing Facilitator Lt (retd) Israt Hossain; Analyst, law enforcement monitoring (LEM) Team Leader Mr. Nasir Uddin, and Field Officer Mr. Mizanoor Rahman. The training/visit was jointly organized by Panthera and Aaranyak, a wildlife conservation organization based in Assam of Northeast India.

The Bagh DCOP held a series of meetings with the Field Director of Manas National Park, high officials of Manas Forest Department, law enforcement agencies and relevant stakeholders. During the visit, she also visited the livelihood team, observed the community engagement activities of Aaranyak and advocated for collaboration between Bangladesh Forest Department and Manas Forest Department in wildlife conservation.

The training program held simultaneously in two segments. In the first segment, Bagh's LEM Team Leader Mr. Nasir Uddin and Aaranyak's Senior Protection Officer Mr. Debasish Buragohain facilitated an eight-day training from 12 August to 19 August 2016. They imparted training on GPS orientation, SMART data collection using log book, different approaches of human encounter, basic questioning methods, use of GoPro camera, finger print collection, crime scene awareness, first aid, offenders profiling and legal framework. A total of 23 Manas Forest Department staff attended the training. In the second segment, Mr. Khandker Rajib Hossain and Ms. Israt Hossain conducted 11 days' on-the-job training for the Manas Tiger Team focusing on the methods of developing operational plans including on ground patrolling strategy, basic patrolling techniques, briefing and debriefing, quality check of SMART data and best practice in data entry. They also participated in foot patrol, elephant patrol and motorbike patrols in the Manas National Park.



Mr. Nasir Uddin from USAID's Bagh Activity conducting a training session for the forest staff in Manas



A snapshot of the participants at the training at Manas National Park in Assam, India

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

**USAID's Bagh Activity**বাঘ আমাদের গর্ব
বাঘ সুরক্ষা করবো
#iStandForTigers

Issue 80 | 27 September 2016

USAID's Bagh Activity sets capacity development targets for 2017

A two-day Team Building and Annual Work Planning Workshop was held from 28 to 29 August 2016 in Gazipur to discuss the lessons learned and set next year's capacity development objectives for WildTeam, the implementer of USAID's Bagh Activity.

As part of USAID's Organizational Capacity Development (OCD) Project, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has been providing capacity building support to WildTeam since 2015 on five key areas of USAID's Specific Awards Conditions (SACs) for USAID's Bagh Activity.

A total of 22 participants from USAID's Bagh Activity, WildTeam and UNOPS attended the workshop held at BRAC CDM in Gazipur. The objectives of the workshop were to review last year's capacity development efforts where WildTeam and the OCD team of UNOPS worked together, capture the lessons learned, develop the Year 3 OCD objectives, and discuss the sustainability mechanisms for the capacity development interventions.

Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam, CEO of WildTeam and Mr. Gary F. Collins, Chief of Party (COP) of USAID's Bagh Activity attended the workshop among others. As nominated by the COP, Mr. Suprio Chakma from Bagh Research Team delivered the welcome speech at the opening session of the workshop. Mr. Quazi M. Ahmed, Lead Consultant and CEO of Future Leaders (a management consultant firm) facilitated the two-day workshop. Ms. Joy Jakosalem-Balane, Team Leader of UNOPS, also facilitated a number sessions at the event. The first day of the workshop focused on reviewing the progress against the Y2 OCD plan. During the session, Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam and Mr. Gary F. Collins shared their lessons learned from the management point of views while other participants also shared their experiences from different perspectives. The second day of the workshop focused on the planning for the Y3 OCD program where the participants came up with an action plan for the next year and presented as a group.



The participants in a group exercise at the Team Building and Annual Work Planning Workshop



WildTeam CEO Professor Dr. Md. Anwarul Islam taking part in a brainstorming session on team building

E-mail us to subscribe: tigertuesday.bagh@gmail.com

Help us reach out to wider audiences:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has joined hands with the Government of Bangladesh to protect wild tigers in Bangladesh through the Bengal Tiger Conservation Activity (Bagh). Under the leadership of the Bangladesh Forest Department, USAID's Bagh Activity is implemented by WildTeam supported by Smithsonian Institution and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

Disclaimer: The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.